

General Meeting

Friday January 21, 2011

7:30pm

Our Saviors Lutheran Church

ROOM CHANGE - SANCTUARY

1035 Carol Lane Lafayette

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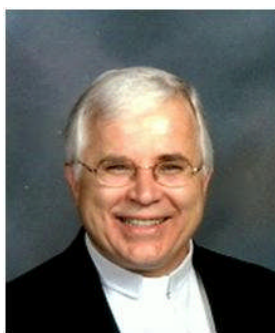
Room Change Within Our Saviors

Lutheran Church for January Meeting

The January 21 general meeting will be held in the Sanctuary of Our Savior's Lutheran Church rather than the Auditorium.

The Auditorium is booked by another group.

The April meeting will also be held in the Sanctuary. As a consequence, we will move the Annual Action to March, which will be held in the regular location in the Auditorium.



David R. Moore K6REV to speak on DXing as EL5L from Liberia

Dave and his wife were missionaries to Liberia before its civil war when they were forced to leave. Dave's wife operated from Liberia under the call of EL5L "Ecco Lima Five Love," a much sought after DX country. Dave and his wife will present slides and a PowerPoint presentation on their adventures in Liberia.

David R. Moore lives in Martinez, California. He is the Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Walnut Creek. "Reverend Dave" been an amateur radio operator since 1991 and his former call is N0MKS. His special interests include vintage amateur radios especially his grandfather's Heathkit duo of a Mohawk receiver and DX40 transmitter with the Heathkit V1 VFO and a Dow Key T/R relay. Dave also operates the digital modes PSK 31, Echo-Link, and IRLP. K6REV uses a Yaesu FT1000D HF transceiver with a 17 foot homebrew 8 radial vertical matched with an SGC SG-237 remote "Smartuner." K6REV recently ventured into the D-STAR world with an ICOM IC92AD.

In addition to ministry in Walnut Creek and Diablo Valley he is CERT trained and an active member of our local CERT committee in Martinez.

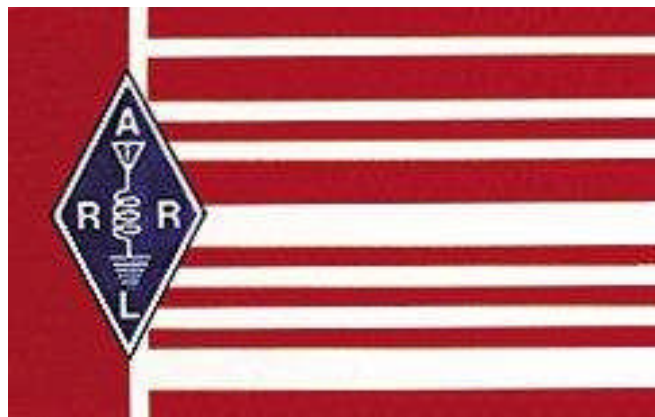
Amateur Radio Publications Now on Sale at Monthly Club Meetings

At each monthly meeting, a table of amateur radio publications chosen to meet the interests of its members from the newest licensee to the most seasoned operator. The available publications cover a broad range of interests including ARRL emergency communication publications, repeater directories, license class manuals and the ARRL *Handbook*.

Our club has negotiated prices for these publications to save members money. Purchases of the publications may be made with cash or check. Plan to stop by the table of publications on display at the next club meeting.

HELP WANTED

The **Education and Training Committee** is seeking club members that are interested in joining the MDARC/SATERN team of volunteer amateur radio instructors for in-class Technician and General License Course teaching opportunities. We also seek club members that are interested in joining Glen, NO6W's "Elmer" table to help our lesser experienced club members with their amateur radio questions. The club also seeks volunteers to help with Amateur Radio Publications sales at the regular monthly club meetings. Please contact John Primus, AF6RJ, at af6rj@arrl.net for further information.



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The Carrier is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and provided space is available.

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ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE CLUB
YAHOO GROUP. DOWNLOAD FILES, INCLUDING
THE CARRIER IN FULL COLOR AS WELL AS SHARE
INFORMATION WITH THE MEMBERSHIP AT:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mdarc>

MDARC MEETING MINUTES, BOARD
1-10-2011

Presiding Officer – John Ronan, K3ZJJ

Meeting opened at 7:00 PM

Attendees - Ron Luttringer, Ray Gaschk, Trevor Hall, Dale McIntire, John Primus, Jim Siemons
Dave Gordon, Glen Rickerd, George Tickner, Tom Kramer

President John announced that George Tickner, K6NHY, has been appointed VEC coordinator for 2011.

John spoke about the club's financial status saying we are in a very satisfactory state. He read the details, the bottom line of which showed a positive figure of approximately \$28,000. It was noted that Pacificon was supporting the club very well.

A discussion about the cost of renting space on Mt Diablo for our repeater was held. It was suggested that we find new ways to reduce expenses and raise revenues. It was noted that we should not depend heavily on Pacificon revenues because that source might be variable from year to year. The prospect of Homeland Security being a source of funds was discussed. It was noted that HRO is giving us a discount on training materials and that MDARC paraphernalia would be a source of revenue that we should pursue. A question about tax on club sales was brought up. President John announced that he will be meeting with our tax accountant tomorrow and he will discuss that with him.

Trevor Hall said that we need \$10,000 for expenses and moved that we transfer that amount from the Pacificon account. It was seconded and approved.

The board then discussed possibly needing a treasurer for Pacificon if the Hinckleys drop out.

John announced that Lauren Stiles is Field Day chairman for 2011. The Walnut Creek location was proposed for this event.

George Tickner spoke about increasing the club's membership. He said that prospective hams/members are filling training classes and that we need to understand what new members expect from the club if we're going to keep churn down. He asked that we find out what the churn is currently.

The subject of repeater costs came up again and it was asked what the cost per member is. The alternative of charging those costs only to members who use the repeater was discussed.

Tom Kramer reported that CoCo RACES is having a traffic handling exercise on February 19th. He discussed ARES and the possibility of integrating that group into RACES exercises. He went on to talk about the effectiveness of EC participation around the county and what the qualifications for various ECOM positions were.

President John gave a short talk about GMRS repeater around the bay area.

The 2011 Xmas party was discussed. It was moved, seconded and passed that we hold it on the 2nd Friday in December.

A discussion ensued about Pacificon speakers for 2011. The need to have a recon trip to the new Marriott location was agreed upon.

John Primus said that he has updated the club brochure. He talked about visiting Livermore ARC (LARK) on January 21st to discuss training there. He said further that there was a request to train some CoCo Sheriff personnel to get licenses.

Glen Rickerd said that he was holding a "Tech-Saturday" on 1-15-2011 to provide technical help and information for new and current Hams. This will be held at the Salvation Army location at Clayton Rd. and West St. in Concord. He went on to show examples of new technology and software to digitally communicate below the level of noise. Information is on the internet at WSPR.NET.

Dave Gordon asked about selling off surplus club equipment to help raise revenues.

Jim Seimons talked about club website changes and discussed the use of credit cards when ordering through that medium.

At 9:07 PM it was moved, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted...

Dick Fletcher, AF9RF
Secretary

AF6PU's Antenna Installation Adventure

Just an update on the antenna(s) project. On Sunday October 24, 2010 in the late afternoon, with an overabundance of enthusiasm, I began to add another 10 feet to my current mast and also stick a 9.5 foot Diamond 2m antenna on top.

My old mast is made up of two sections of 10 foot heavy wall, 2 inch conduit, with another 5 to 6 foot section of 1 inch water pipe on top.

My wife, Misa KJ6BUE and my son, Lou, tried to help me separate the two sections that are bolted into place on the side of my house - to no avail. I ended up just removing the entire assembly and moving it to my backyard and add all the new components. Once in my backyard and the 25+ feet of mast and antennas laying on the level, I was able to add another 10 foot section of heavy wall conduit, move my two ATV 1200 MHz antennas down the now taller mast, install a pulley and rope near the top, and add the Diamond 2m antenna at the top.

The entire assembly weighed quite a bit, and it was pretty unwieldy. I tied off a piece of rope about 2/3 the way up the mast and climbed onto my roof to maintain a position of better leverage. My son and wife were on the ground and walking the antenna up towards vertical. When we got to about 30 degrees elevation, it was beyond what my helpers could handle. I held on for dear life, but the mast swung over a part of my roof. and came to rest. It did no damage to my roof, but the sun had now set, and I could not longer thoroughly inspect the antennas that were pre-placed on the mast. The ATV antennas appeared OK, but I was unsure about the 2 meter antenna. My team was starting to lose confidence in their leader - which actually shows their great wisdom. In any case, the mast was now in a better position for me to walk over and start walking it up to vertical.

The entire unit was now way too heavy to safely carry over my roof to my side yard, so once vertical, we lifted and moved the mast about 6 to 12 inches at a time around half my house. It went back into position pretty well, and we secured it down and put away all our tools for the night.

The next morning, I went out bright and early to see what "she" looked like. Well, the 2m antenna did sustain some damage. I am sure that it is functional, but neighbors will now know why it's called "amateur" radio!

I had the mind to pre-attached the 9913 cables with appropriate N or UHF connectors to all the pre-installed antennas. I made up a new cable for my off-center fed (OCF) dipole and thoroughly tested it for continuity and impedance. I attached the OCF dipole balun/center section to my pre-installed rope/pulley setup and hoisted away. I unfurled the coiled wires from each side of the dipole in the direction that they would ultimately be attached to "something", and had to go to work.

The next morning, bright and early, I installed the short section of the dipole. It ran from the top of the mast down to a tree trunk in my backyard. I tied a small, loose fitting rope around the trunk of the tree with a pulley attached. I tied off the end of the dipole to a rope that fed through the pulley and was tied off to an old red brick. The brick provided a nice tautness to the wire. Time to go to work.

The following morning, I installed a 6 foot x 1 inch water pipe to the top of my front fence on the opposite side of my house. Again, I tied off the "long" side of the OCF dipole to a rope and passed the end of the rope through a pulley, again, attached to the top of the 6 foot tall water pipe. I, again, used a brick to provide tautness to the wire.

I went out front and looked at my handy work - and, and, and the bricks and OCF antenna wires seem to be pulling my mast over. Reinforcing the "amateur" in amateur radio...

I am going to have to guy the mast (which I think I knew anyway), and my XYL told me she knew!

Yesterday, between the Thursday 1930 MDARC Net and the 2000 MDARC ATV Net, I drilled an additional hole in my pass-through board into my shack (bedroom) and have fed all the coax into the shack. That part looks like a fine business and works well.

This weekend will be "guy" time. I am hoping that I can climb to the tippy-top of my ladder, placed on the top of my roof, and using a long, extend-able paint pole, push up/over the Diamond 2m antenna to appear more "normal" and properly polarized.

My XYL has indicated that even though I am half Italian, another leaning tower of Pisa is not necessary in our side yard!

That's what I know now. I am certain that my Elmers out there reading this are shaking their heads, and laughing - but I am getting the job done, and hope to get back on the air really soon!

- - - Jim Simons AF6PU



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The Carrier

Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club

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www.mdarc.org

FIRST CLASS

W6CX Nets

Monday 7:00 pm Washington High School Net 147.060+

Monday 8:00 pm SATERN Net 147.060+

Thursday 7:30 pm MDARC Club Net 147.060+

Thursday 8:00 pm General ATV Net 1241.250+

Tuesday 7:30pm Fat City 10 meter SSB/CW Net 28.420 MHz

FM 147.060 MHz + / PL 100Hz - EchoLink: W6CX-R /133896, IRLP: 3057
224.780 MHz - / PL 77Hz 441.325 MHz + / PL 100Hz

ATV Input: 1289.25 MHz AM/FM. Outputs 1241.25 MHz AM 919.25 MHz AM

ATV Internet Stream: <http://www.w6cxatv.net/live>

Contra Costa County Emergency Communications Nets

Every Thursday, 7:00 pm

Central County 145.680 Simplex

East County 146.535 Simplex

South County 146.355/+ (100 PL)

West County 145.110/- (107.3 PL)

HF Net 8pm First Thursday of each month 3.890 MHz LSB

January—February 2011 Club Calendar

Friday January 21, 2011	7:30 pm	MDARC General Meeting ***ROOM CHANGE*** to Sanctuary <i>Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette</i>
Saturday February 5, 2011	9:00 am	MDARC Technical Committee <i>Environmental Center, 2581 Harbor Street, Pittsburg</i>
Monday February 7, 2011	7:00 pm	MDARC Board Meeting <i>Buttercup Bar & Grill 660 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek</i>
Friday February 18, 2011	7:30 pm	MDARC General Meeting <i>Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette</i>